

IN ORDER TO
INVESTIGATE
THE THREAT, WE
BOARDED THE TRAIN
HEADED FOR
SHIKOTSU-GA-HARA
IN HOKKAIDO.

This coming April 28th
I have cast a magic spell on the
train passing through Shikotsu-
ga-Hara marshlands in Hokkaido.
Enjoy the magic of death and fear.
- The Puppetmaster.

IT ALL STARTED
WITH A PERSON
CALLING HIMSELF
THE PUPPETMASTER
SENDING A THREAT-
ENING LETTER TO
THE POLICE.

PLACED
AMONG
ROSES IN A
COMPARTMENT.



...AND WE
RETURNED
TO FIND THE
LEADER OF
THE MAGIC
& ILLUSION
TROUPE,
DEAD.



A FAKE
BOMB
THREAT
CLEARED
THE
TRAIN...

IT HAD
DISAPPEARED,
AS IF BY
MAGIC!



BUT WHEN WE
TOOK OUR EYES
OFF THE CORPSE
FOR ONE
MOMENT...

WHAT
THE..?!



BUT, NOW

金田一事件簿
少年の事件簿
THE KINDAICHI CASE FILES



...YAMAGAMI-
SAN'S BODY
HAD RETURNED,
REAPPEARING IN
ONE OF THE
HOTEL ROOMS.

THE BODY
MUTILATED TO
RESEMBLE
THE BENT
MARIONETTE
SENT BY THE
PUPPETMASTER
TO THE POLICE.

...!!

まじゅつ列車殺人事件⑤
魔術列車殺人事件⑤
MAGICAL EXPRESS MURDER CASE (5)

DOES THAT MEAN
THAT TONIGHT'S
MAGIC SHOW IS
CANCELLED?

IT'S NOT
LIKE WE HAVE
A CORONER
LOOKING AT IT,
SO I CAN'T SAY
FOR SURE,
BUT...

THEY SAID
THAT THE LEADER
OF THE MAGIC &
ILLUSION TROUPE
WAS MURDERED!

MURDER?!

COME
NOW,
YUMI-
SAN.

SOB!

MY
HUSBAND
...

AND I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN THE
TIME OF DEATH WAS BETWEEN
9 A.M. THIS MORNING AND
NOON!

YAMAGAMI'S CAUSE
OF DEATH WAS
MOST LIKELY A
STABBING

IT WAS
HIS BODY
WE SAW.

YEAH...!

WE
WOULD'VE
BEEN ON
THE TRAIN
THEN.

THEN HE
WAS DEAD
WHEN WE
SAW HIM IN
THAT COM-
PARTMENT.

WHAT'S
THAT
DOLL?

JUST
LIKE THIS
MARIONETTE.

NOW, THE BODY,
AFTER BEING
DISMEMBERED
FROM THE NECK,
SHOULDER,
ELBOWS, AND
KNEES...

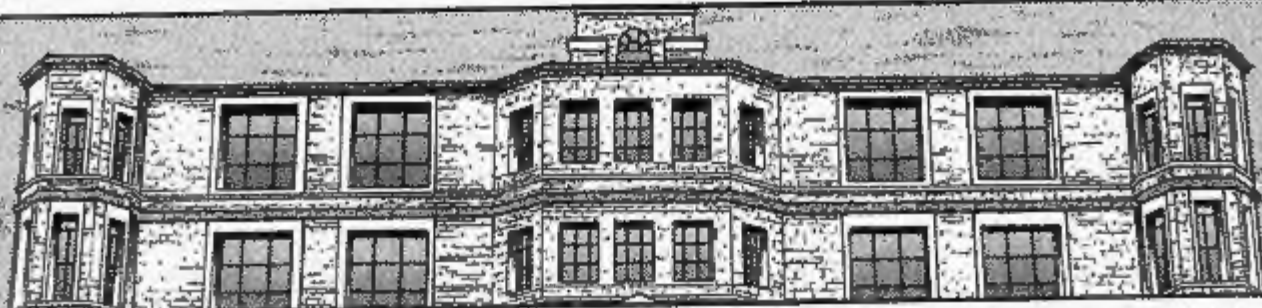
...WAS
NEATLY
TIED BACK
TOGETHER
WITH
STRING.

AT THE TIME, THE
MEANING BEHIND IT
WAS A MYSTERY.

THIS WAS SENT ALONG
WITH THE LETTER TO THE
POLICE, SUPERINTENDENT

WE'RE
DEALING
WITH A
REAL
SICKO.

WE NEVER THOUGHT
WE'D SEE SOME POOR
GUY MADE TO LOOK
JUST LIKE IT.





I THOUGHT THAT WAS STRANGE, SINCE THE NEXT TRAIN BACK ISN'T FOR ANOTHER THREE DAYS



HE KEPT HIMSELF LOCKED UP IN HIS ROOM FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS AND HAD JUST CHECKED OUT.

Koushiro Nagasaki
Shikotsu-ga-Hara
Hotel Manager

HE WORE A WHITE RUBBER MASK, AND I NEVER SAW HIS FACE.



SO THIS TOTSUNE GUY WAS STAYING IN THE ROOM WHERE THE BODY WAS FOUND, RIGHT?

Y-YES, HE ARRIVED ON THE TRAIN THREE DAYS AGO.



HIS NAME?

SENPAI!
TOTSUNE,
HIS NAME!



HM?



"MARIONETTE"?!



4/25

MARIO

Mario Tot-sune

TOTSUNE?

NAGASAKI-SAN, IS THERE ANY OTHER WAY OUT OF HERE BESIDES THE TRAIN?

NO, AS YOU CAN SEE, WE'RE SURROUNDED BY MARSH AND WETLANDS.

WHAT A SNEAKY BASTARD!

A FAKE NAME...

CLEVER.

AND WE'RE STUCK HERE WITH HIM?!

SO THE KILLER IS STUCK HERE!

...IS STILL BLOCKED BY MUDSLIDES AFTER LAST MONTH'S RAINS

AND THE ONE ROAD OUT...

HAIJUNE, I SWEAR!

A ROCK? WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT IT?

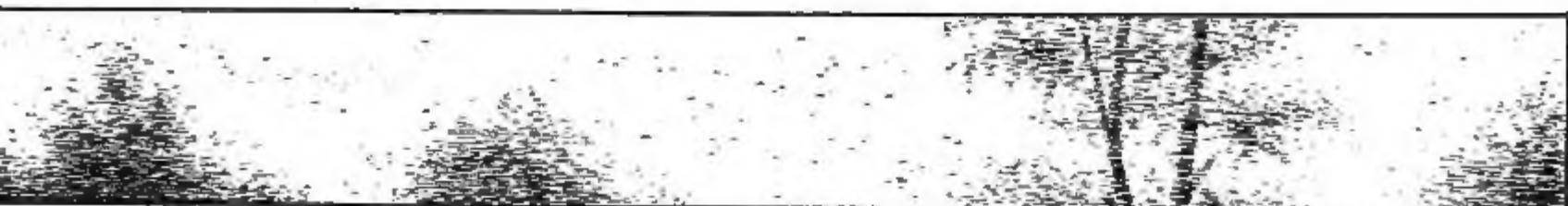
JADE? YOU MEAN LIKE THE JEWELRY?!

IT'S NO ORDINARY ROCK, IT'S A RAW JADE STONE!

A LONG TIME AGO, WHEN THIS AREA WAS PROSPEROUS, YOU COULD HAVE FOUND THESE EVERYWHERE.

WHAT'S THIS DOING HERE?

!?





AWAITING IT WAS THE OTHER PUPPET MASTER, WHO COLLECTED THE BODY AND BROUGHT IT TO THE HOTEL!

IT EXPLAINS IT!

ONE MURDERED YAMAGAMI INSIDE THE TRAIN, AND THREW THE BODY OUT OF THE TRAIN...



THERE WERE TWO PUPPET-MASTERS!



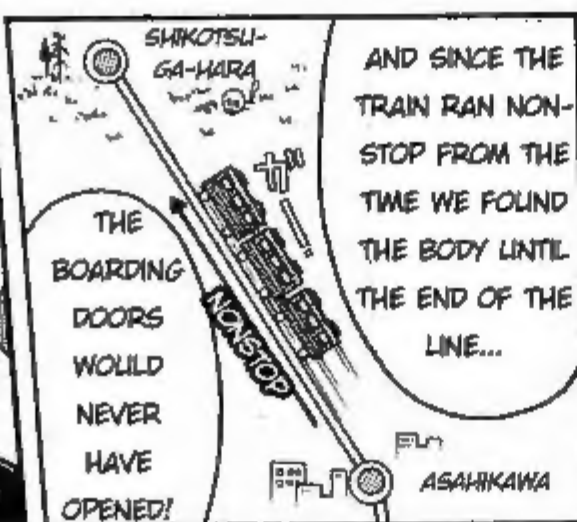
W-WHY?!

BUT CAPTAIN KANMOCHI, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

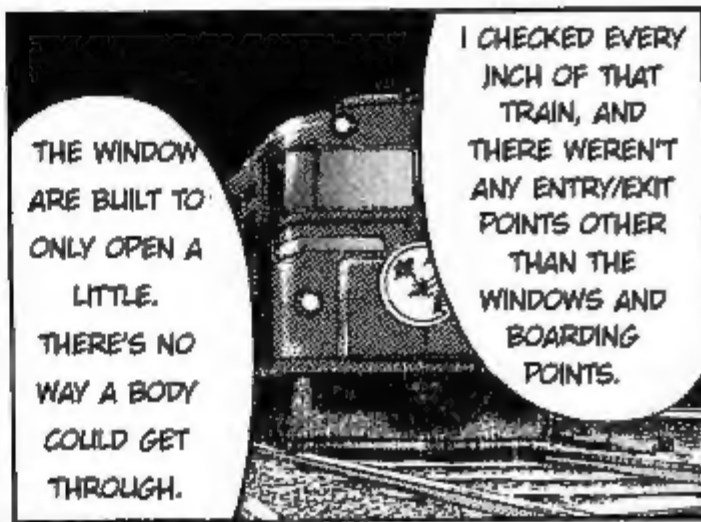


THERE'S JUST NO WAY.

B-BUT!



AND SINCE THE TRAIN RAN NON-STOP FROM THE TIME WE FOUND THE BODY UNTIL THE END OF THE LINE...



THE WINDOW ARE BUILT TO ONLY OPEN A LITTLE. THERE'S NO WAY A BODY COULD GET THROUGH.

I CHECKED EVERY INCH OF THAT TRAIN, AND THERE WEREN'T ANY ENTRY/EXIT POINTS OTHER THAN THE WINDOWS AND BOARDING POINTS.



HMM. GOOD THOUGHT, YOUNG ONE. BUT NO.

MAYBE HE GOT IT OUT A WINDOW PIECE BY PIECE.

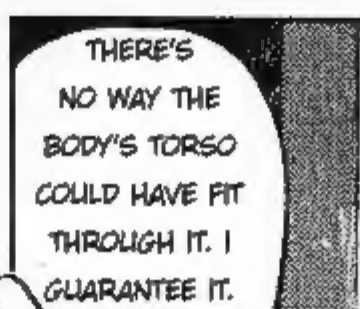


WHAT IF THE KILLER HAD ALREADY DISMEMBERED THE BODY WHILE INSIDE THE TRAIN?



I STILL
DON'T
KNOW

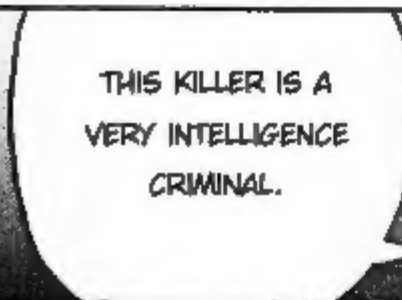
FINE. THEN
HOW DID
THE CULPRIT
GET THE
BODY OUT?!



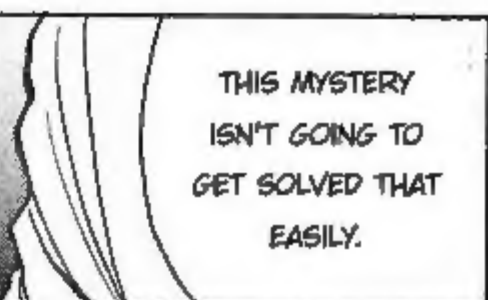
THERE'S
NO WAY THE
BODY'S TORSO
COULD HAVE FIT
THROUGH IT. I
GUARANTEE IT.



THE OPENING
OF THAT
WINDOW...



THIS KILLER IS A
VERY INTELLIGENCE
CRIMINAL.



THIS MYSTERY
ISN'T GOING TO
GET SOLVED THAT
EASILY.



...BUT HE'S
UNLIKELY TO
GET NERVOUS
AND MAKE A
MISTAKE.

NOT ONLY
THAT...



IN FACT, HE
ENJOYED IT!



THIS GUY PERFORMED
THIS BLOODY CRIME
WITHOUT ANY
HESITATION.



...IS IN A
CLASS ALL
BY HIMSELF.

OUR SELF-
PROCLAIMED
PUPPETMASTER...





YOU MEAN
IT WASN'T
CANCELED?

EVEN
AFTER YOUR
LEADER WAS
KILLED?

EXCUSE
ME.

I CAME TO
TELL YOU THAT
THE MAGIC &
ILLUSION TROUPE'S
SHOW WILL BE
PERFORMED AS
SCHEDULED, SO
PLEASE COME TO
THE THEATER.

W-WELL...
I WAS TOLD
TO TELL
YOU...

HM
?



Magic & Illusion
Troupe
Dressing Room
No visitors

HEY, WHAT'S
THE MEANING
OF THIS?!



YUMI, IT'S TIME
I STEPPED
FORWARD. I'M
THE MOST
POPULAR...

IT'S THE
PERFECT TIME
TO ANNOUNCE
THE NEW
LEADER OF
THE MAGIC &
ILLUSION
TROUPE!

I SAID
TONIGHT'S
SHOW
WAS
CANCELED!

LUM

THE
LEADER IS
DEAD! WE
CAN'T PUT
ON THE
SHOW!

HELL, I'M
PRACTICALLY
SUPPORTING
THE WHOLE
TROUPE!

YOU
HEARTLESS
BASTARD...

BUT THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHY WE'RE
DOING IT,
YUMI-SAN!

!





HAJIME-CHAN,
HURRY!
EVERYONE'S
ALREADY GONE
AHEAD!

THIS
WAY!
HURRY,
HURRY!

SORRY!
THE ROOMS
HAVE FREE
CABLE!

SO THAT'S
THE
THEATER?

!!
WHOA!

YEAH, IT'S
IN THE
MIDDLE OF
THE LAKE!

AMAZING!

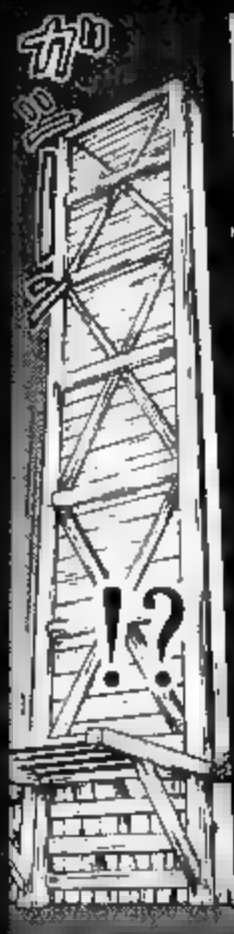


W-
WHOA...
OOPS!

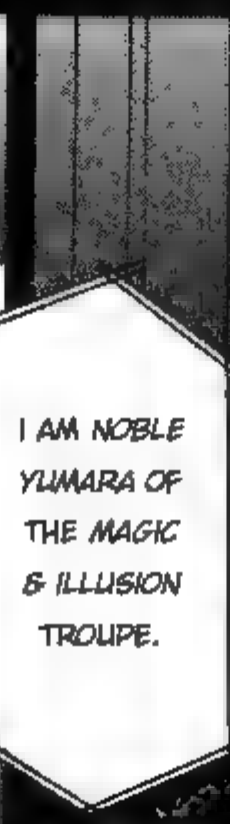


LET'S
HURRY!

COMING!



WHOOAAA!



I AM NOBLE YUMARA OF THE MAGIC & ILLUSION TROUPE.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WELCOME TO THE SHIKOTSU-GA-HARA THEATER!



...PUT ON BY
YOUR VERY
GUILTY
APPRENTICES!

NOW, NOW,
THE SHOW
IS ABOUT
TO BEGIN...



REIKO-
SAN!

LET'S WATCH
TOGETHER...



IT'S THE
SPITTING
IMAGE OF
HER IN HER
YOUNGER
DAYS.



AH... I SAY,
THAT'S A
LOVELY
MARIONETTE.

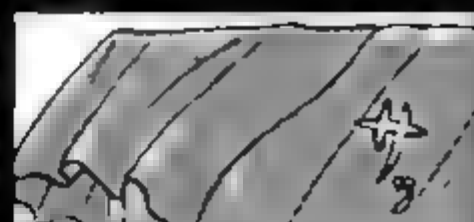
YOU
KNOW...?

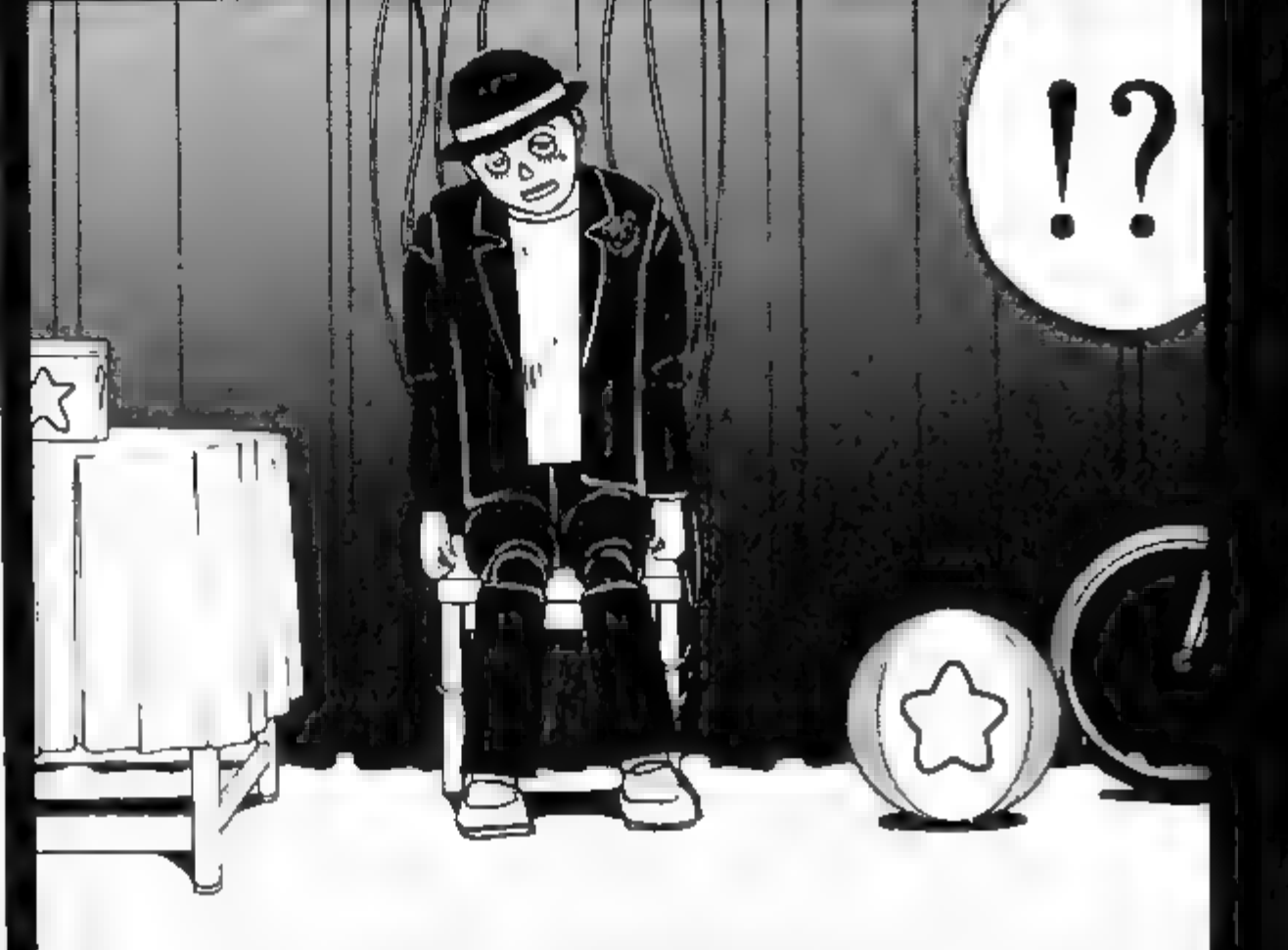
TWITCH

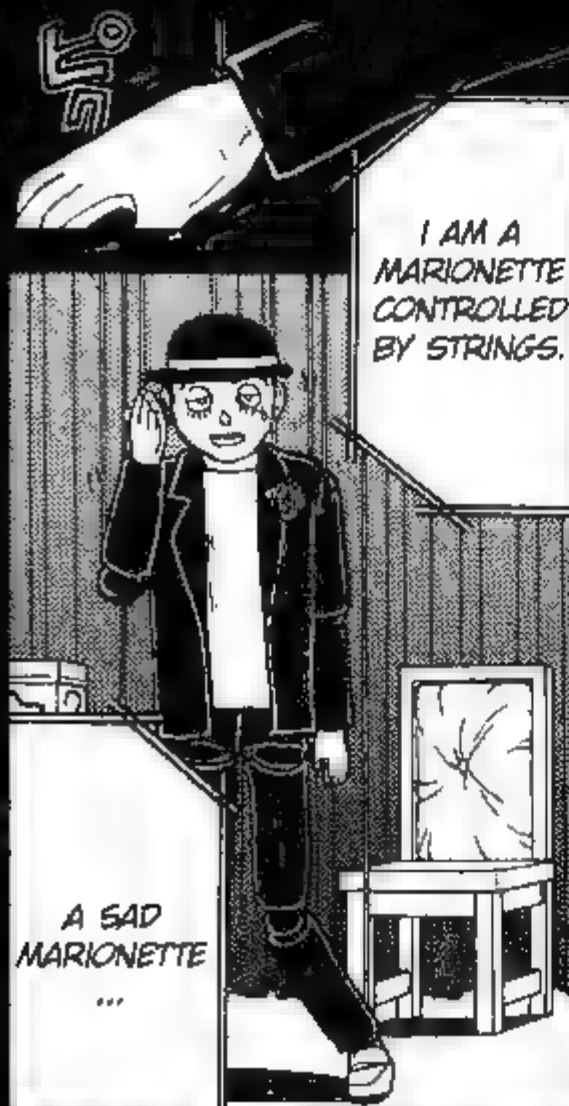
SHE PASSED
AWAY FIVE
YEARS AGO
IN THIS
THEATER,
DIDN'T SHE?

HER NAME
WAS REIKO
CHIKAMIYA...

MAY I WATCH
WITH YOU,
NAGASAKI-SAN?







I AM A
MARIONETTE
CONTROLLED
BY STRINGS.

A SAD
MARIONETTE
...



IT'S THE
ONE WE
SAW IN
THE
TRAIN.

THE ONE
THAT WAS
IN PIECES
IN THE
LUGGAGE!



I WANT TO
BE FREE!



IT'S
PROB-
ABLY A
BLACK
STRING
WE CAN'T
SEE...

WOW! ALL
THE
STRINGS
ARE CUT,
SO HOW
ARE THEY
CONTROL-
LING HIM?



I CAN
SKIP
ROPE!

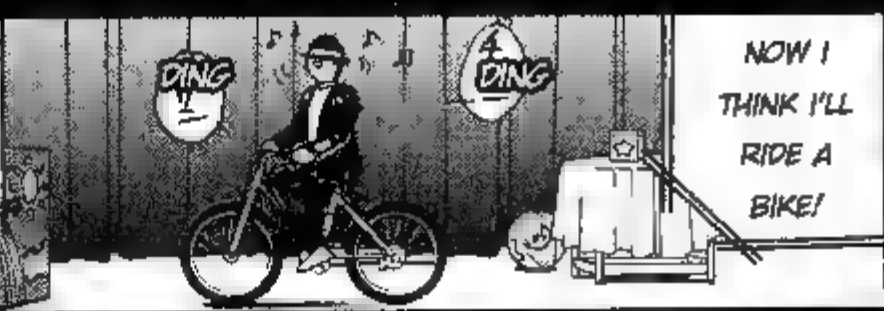
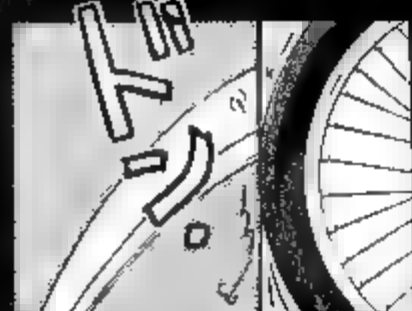
BUT NOW
IT'S
JUMPING
ROPE!

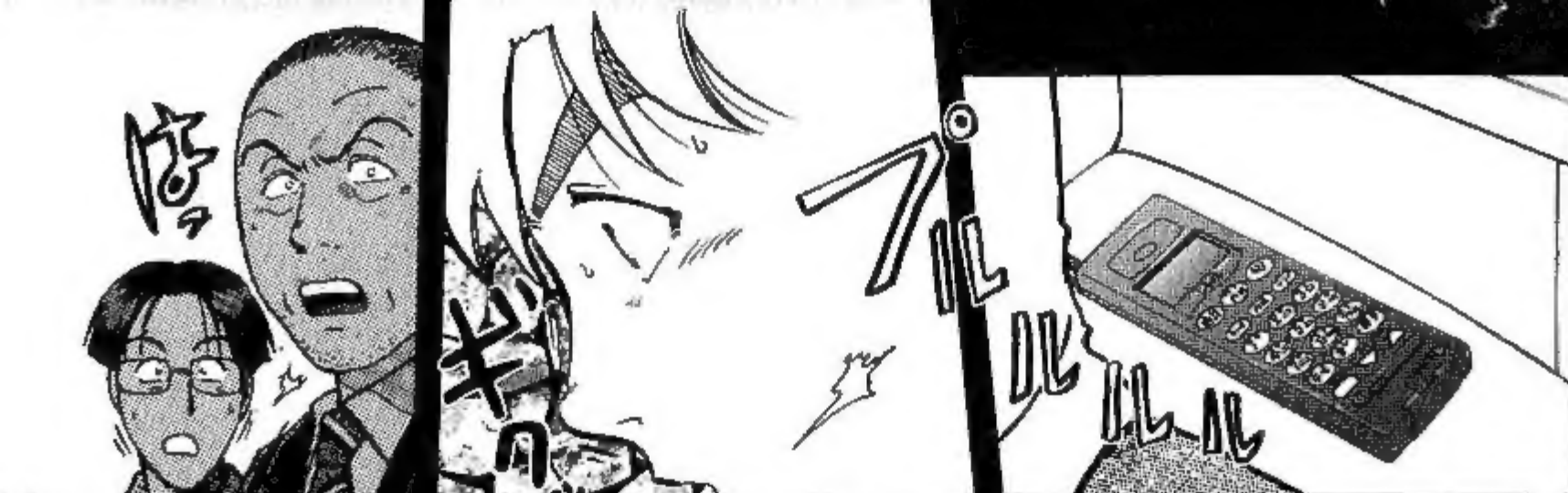
HUH?



I'M FREE!

NOW
NOBODY
CAN
CONTROL
ME
ANYMORE!







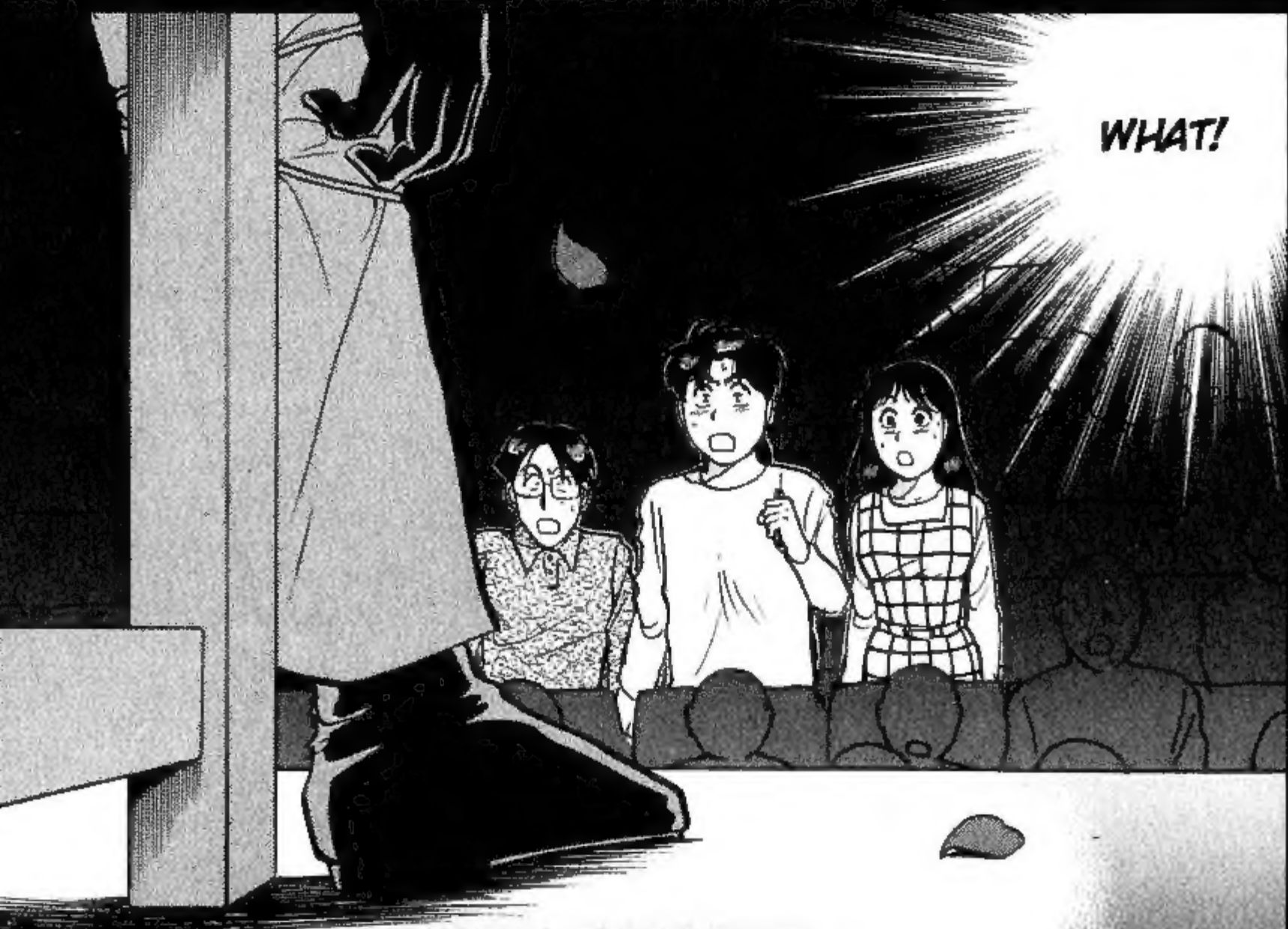


OSSAN! IT'S
THE PUPPET-
MASTER!
HE'S...


KINDAICHI!
WHAT IS
THIS?!



ㄥㄹ.




WHAT!



IT HAD TAKEN
PLACE IN ONLY
AN INSTANT...
DURING THE FIVE
OR SIX SECONDS
THAT THE LIGHTS
WERE OUT, THE
MARIONETTE
SEATED IN THE
CHAIR HAS BEEN
REPLACED...

WITH THE BODY
OF NOBLE
YURAMA,
STABBED
THROUGH THE
HEART WITH A
KNIFE!



THE PUPPET
MASTER HAD
STRUCK AGAIN!